(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) whether any specific plans have been prepared to avert the serious problem of water scarcity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the lecture it is projected that due to competing sectoral water damands particularly from energy and industrial sector, the availability of water for irrigation in total water use will come down from 83.3% in 1990 to 64.7% in 2050 A.D. To overcome this scarcity situation the following two pronged strategy has been suggested;

1. (i) Optimisation of water use efficiency,

   (ii) Water conservation including rain water harvesting,

   (iii) Control of population growth, and

   (iv) Conjunctive use of surface water and ground water to improve overall irrigation performance.

2. Augmenting the utilisable water availability through inter-basin transfer of surplus water.

(c) The Government has initiated various measures through Command Area Development Programme and National Water Management programme schemes to improve efficiency of irrigation water use. The National Water Policy (1987) provides guidelines and recommendations for better planning and management of the country's water resources. The National Water Policy is being updated to cover issues like inter-sectoral water allocation, environment problems, inter-State Water Disputes, farmer participation, private sector participation etc. National Water Development Agency and Ministry of Water Resources has prepared perspective plan for inter-basin transfer of surplus water to augment availability of water by about 224 Billion Cubic Meters.

National Water Policy

460. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Water policy drawn up by the National water Board (NWB) in October, 1998 has since been approved by the Union Government.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the views of the State Governments were solicited and considered before drawing up the said policy;

(d) by when policy is likely to be put into effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) The updated draft national Water Policy has been considered by the National Water Board, on which all the State Governments are represented by their Chief Secretaries and it has been approved by general consensus. Some States had some reservations about certain aspects of the Policy.

(d) The draft National Water Policy is to be placed before the National Water Resources Council for adoption.

Misuse of Loans for Development of Irrigation in Orissa

461. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India examined papers regarding misutilisation of loans for development of irrigation amounting to Rs. 662 crores in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?